

STREET SMART

April 4, 2007

Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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■ SANBAG awards contract for State Street/University Parkway work

Work is expected to start next month on the State Street/University Parkway grade separation in San Bernardino, following the award of a \$17.1 million construction contract to Skanska USA.

Skanska USA (formerly E.L. Yeager and Yeager-Skanska) was the lowest responsive bidder from a field of seven firms. Their bid was below the SANBAG engineer's estimate.

The project will include a bridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks to eliminate lengthy traffic delays, improve safety and enhance access to businesses and to California State University, San Bernardino. Street realignments, traffic signals and sidewalks also are part of the project. Work should take about two years.

■ Passenger rail service to Redlands to advance

New passenger rail service from San Bernardino to Redlands moved one step closer with the Board of Directors' adoption of the draft station area plan.

The plan calls for a light rail system to be developed to connect to the Metrolink rail system that now ends in San Bernardino. Metrolink will extend service to a new inter-modal transit center at Rialto Avenue and E Street in San Bernardino. From there, Metrolink riders can transfer to the proposed light-rail system and ride as far as the University of Redlands. Additional stations would be located at Mill Street, Tippecanoe Avenue, California Street, Alabama Street, Orange Street and University of Redlands.

A number of other steps must be taken before the passenger rail service to Redlands can begin. Some of these steps include conducting additional studies, adopting the route and stations as the locally preferred alternative, updating capital costs, applying for federal funding and completing environmental reports.

■ Board salutes Teunissen for SANBAG service

Board members gave a round of applause to Contract Tracking Assistant Beryl Teunissen for completing five years of service to SANBAG.

Teunissen, pictured at right with Executive Director Tony Grasso, is a member of the Planning & Programming Department. She received a pin to commemorate her long-time service to the agency.



■ SANBAG named WTS "Employer of the Year"

SANBAG is a great place to work — and now has the award to prove it. The agency was selected as "Employer of the Year" by Women's Transportation Seminar International.

WTS International President Ann Koby called SANBAG Executive Director Tony Grasso with the news this week. SANBAG was selected from all of the "Employer of the Year" entries submitted by chapters across the US, Canada and Europe.

SANBAG and WTS-Inland Empire Chapter members will receive the award on May 3 in San Diego.

SANBAG April Travel Tip ...

Confused about freeway traffic conditions? Get help from above with changeable message signs. These strategically placed signs help keep you up to date on traffic conditions by displaying road closures, accident reports, severe weather conditions, alternate routes and estimated travel times between major interchanges and cities. These signs aren't just for Amber Alerts anymore, so keep an eye out for other traffic information.



Down the road ...

- April 11: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- April 12: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- April 18: Plans & Programs Committee, 1 p.m.

Board supports, opposes transportation bills Additional bills to be considered at future meetings

SANBAG Board members weighed in on three Assembly bills and three Senate bills all affecting transportation in San Bernardino County. SANBAG also is tracking a number of other bills and likely will suggest positions on additional bills this spring. The agency's Administrative Committee will review these bills prior to their review by the full SANBAG Board of Directors.

This month's edition of **Street Smart** provides a summary of the six pieces of proposed legislation on which the Board took positions.

Support Positions

■ **Senate Concurrent Resolution 16**

Authored by Senator Gloria Negrete-McLeod, the bill designates the new Route 210/Interstate 215 in San Bernardino as the Gary Moon Memorial Interchange. Moon served as SANBAG's Director of Freeway Construction from 1990 to 2003. During his tenure, Route 210 and Interstate 215 were SANBAG's largest freeway projects, so it is fitting that the junction of these two freeways be named in his honor. Soon after his retirement in 2003, he lost a short battle to cancer in October 2005.



Gary Moon

The bill was jointly introduced by Senator McLeod and Senator Bob Dutton; Assemblyman Bill Emmerson also is a co-author. The Senate Transportation Committee will hear testimony about the bill on April 10. SANBAG received 13 letters of support from local jurisdictions.

■ **Assembly Bill 1373**

Assemblyman Bill Emmerson introduced legislation to support design-build procurement methods for freeway interchanges that provide access to health care facilities that offer emergency services in San Bernardino County. This bill would make legislative findings and declare it necessary for this type of procurement, which would expedite improvements to these interchanges. The bill would authorize SANBAG to use design-build methods for several interchange projects that connect to regional trauma centers in the county, including, Interstate 10 at Pepper Avenue for access to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center, Interstate 10 at Alabama Avenue to connect to Redlands Community Hospital, Interstate 10 at Tippecanoe Avenue to connect to Loma Linda University Medical Center and Route 30 at Waterman Avenue to connect to St. Bernardine's Medical Center.

■ **Senate Bill 445**

Proposed by Senator Tom Torlakson, Senate Bill 445 would create a Road User Task Force, with 11 members appointed by the Legislature, Governor, California Transportation Commission and city and county organizations. The bill

would require the task force to hold at least three public hearings around the state and to report to the Legislature and Governor by January 1, 2009 on alternatives to the current system of taxing road users through per-gallon fuel taxes.

■ **Assembly Joint Resolution 14**

Passage of AJR 14, authored by Assemblyman Kevin Jefferies, would authorize the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would ensure that a substantial portion of new revenues derived from customs duties and import fees be dedicated to mitigating the economic, mobility, security and environmental impacts of trade in California and other trade-affected regions across the U.S.

Oppose Positions

■ **Assembly Bill 1337**

Authored by Assemblyman Pedro Nava, this bill would require Caltrans employees to perform the construction management and engineering for all projects on the state highway system, including inspection, quality control inspection, surveying, materials testing and resident engineer functions. If passed, this bill would significantly change the manner in which SANBAG conducts business and may result in higher operational costs.

■ **Senate Bill 540**

Senator Tom Harman has introduced legislation to provide, for purposes of the law established by Proposition 42, that the terms "sales price" and "gross receipts" do not include the amount of any state and federal fuel taxes. If passed, this bill will eliminate the application of the sales tax on the excise tax at the gas pump.

An additional 23 legislative proposals are in circulation concerning Proposition 1B funding. SANBAG is following these and other transportation bills for possible future positions.